

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A material control system comprising:

5 a master table including an entry field of a regeneration control flag indicating whether or not each of materials to be used in a manufacturing apparatus is regeneratable and an entry field of a regeneration order control flag indicating whether a registered contractor is a seller or a regeneration contractor, said master table storing information for controlling each of said materials;

10 an order control section for controlling a purchase order for, and an order for a regenerating process on, regeneratable materials out of said materials, using said regeneration order control flag; and

a stock control section for controlling a stock of said materials,

wherein said order control section and said stock control section are controlled in a centralized manner.

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2. The material control system according to claim 1,

wherein said master table further includes an entry field of a serial number control flag for identifying each of said materials,

20 said order control section controls said order for a regenerating process on said regeneratable materials based on per-serial-number basis, and

said stock control section controls said stock of said materials on said per-serial-number basis.

3. The material control system according to claim 2,

25 wherein said master table further includes an entry field of a threshold value

defining a constraint on a regenerating process on said regeneratable materials,

said order control section controls such that no order for a regenerating process is made when a value contained in information about each of said regeneratable materials becomes equal to or exceeds said threshold value, said information being stored on said per-serial-number basis, and

said stock control section urges each of said regeneratable materials to be disposed of when said value in said information about each of said regeneratable materials becomes equal to or exceeds said threshold value.

10 4. The material control system according to claim 3,
wherein said threshold value is a cumulative total number of regenerating processes.

15 5. The material control system according to claim 3,
wherein said threshold value is a cumulative sum of a time period of use.

20 6. The material control system according to claim 2, further comprising:
a use display for showing information of materials which are being used out of said materials on said per-serial-number basis and is capable of operating said order control section and said stock control section; and

a storage display for showing information of materials which are being stored out of said materials on said per-serial-number basis and is capable of operating said order control section and said stock control section,

wherein said use display and said storage display are switched therebetween.

7. The material control system according to claim 3, further comprising:

a use display for showing information of materials which are being used out of said materials on said per-serial-number basis and is capable of operating said order control section and said stock control section; and

5 a storage display for showing information of material which are being stored out of said materials on said per-serial-number basis and is capable of operating said order control section and

said stock control section,

wherein said use display and said storage display are switched therebetween.